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ACTION WHA-00

INFO	LOG-00	CIAE-00	DODE-00	SRPP-00	UTED-00	VC-00	H-01
	TEDE-00	INR-00	L-00	AC-01	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OMB-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	ACE-00	P-00	SP-00	SS-00
	TEST-00	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	PMB-00	DRL-02	G-00
	SAS-00	/005W					

-----C05063 202225Z /30

R 182033Z JUN 02
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6430
NSC WASHDC
USCINCSO MIAMI FL
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS CARACAS 001745

SENSITIVE

USCINCSO ALSO FOR POLAD
NSC FOR SALCEDO

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PREL, PGOV, VE
SUBJECT: POLITICAL UPDATE - JUNE 18

ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS INSTALLED ON CARACAS ROOFTOPS

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1. (U) GEN. JORGE LUIS GARCIA, COMMANDER OF THE THIRD INFANTRY DIVISION, CARNEIRO, ANNOUNCED JUNE 17 THE INSTALLATION ANTI-AIRCRAFT BATTERIES ON THE ROOF OF CAGIGAL OBERVATORY, LOCATED IN THE 23 DE ENERO NEIGHBORHOOD IN LIBERTADOR MUNICIPALITY, A CHAVEZ STRONGHOLD. ACCORDING TO GEN. GARCIA, INSTALLING SUCH EQUIPMENT IS "NORMAL" ANY TIME THE UNIFIED COMMAND MEETS, WHICH THEY DID ON JUNE 14, TO DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR SECURITY FOR THE JUNE 15 MARCH. THE EQUIPMENT WAS INSTALLED THE MORNING OF JUNE 14, AND WILL NOT BE REMOVED GEN. GARCIA DENIED THE WEAPONS WERE IN PLACE TO FIGHT AGAINST AN IMPENDING COUP. SOME OBSERVERS HAVE ASSERTED THAT THE WEAPONS SYSTEM HAS BEEN DEPLOYED TO PROTECT MIRAFLORES PALACE IN CASE OF A COUP ATTEMPT.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
REVIEW AUTHORITY: JOHN L MILLS
DATE/CASE ID: 25 APR 2005 200400109

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STAY CALM, THEY'RE FOR THE PARADE

2. (U) GEN. GARCIA ALSO CALLED FOR CALM IN THE COMING WEEKS AS THE ARMED FORCES PREPARE FOR THE JULY 5 VENEZUELAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS. HE ANNOUNCED THAT ON JUNE 27 AND JULY 3, AIRCRAFT AND TANKS WOULD BE MOVED TO CARACAS FOR THE FESTIVITIES. THE MACHINERY TO BE MOVED INCLUDES: MIRAGE, TUCANOS F-5 AND F-16 AIRCRAFT AND AMX-30, AMX-13, DRAGON 300, AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT ARTILLERY VEHICLES. GEN. GARCIA STATED HIS SUPPORT FOR KEEPING THE ARMED FORCES OUT OF THE POLITICAL DEBATE.

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH TO RELEASE REPORT ON APRIL 11 DEATHS
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3. (SBU) JOSE MIGUEL VIVANCO IS LEADING A WEEK-LONG VISIT TO VENEZUELA BY A HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH (HRW) DELEGATION TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATHS DURING THE DEMONSTRATION OF APRIL 11. AT A JUNE 17 PRESS CONFERENCE, VIVANCO DECLARED THE INVESTIGATION WOULD BE "RIGOROUS" AND COMPLETED WITHIN A "REASONABLE" TIME FRAME. VIVANCO DEPLORED THE VIOLENT ACTIONS OF APRIL 11 AND ANNOUNCED THAT HRW WOULD RELEASE ITS FINAL REPORT ON THE EVENTS JUNE 21. THE HRW MISSION TEAM IS PROPOSING TO MEET WITH THE OPPOSITION AND PRO-GOVERNMENT LEGISLATORS, THE ATTORNEY GENERAL, SUPREME JUSTICE TRIBUNAL PRESIDENT, CABINET MINISTERS AND PRESIDENT CHAVEZ. AMBASSADOR IS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH VIVANCO JUNE 21.

THE SURVEY SAYS:

4. (U) THREE OUT OF FOUR CARACAS RESIDENTS BELIEVE THAT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROBLEMS IN VENEZUELA ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE POLITICAL ONES, ACCORDING TO A CONSULTORES 21 POLL. THE SURVEY ALSO INDICATES THAT 59 PERCENT OF THOSE QUESTIONED WANT A REFERENDUM TO REVOKE PRESIDENT CHAVEZ'S MANDATE BEFORE 2004. IN A SEPARATE QUESTION, 38 PERCENT OF THOSE SURVEYED RESPONDED THAT, IF THERE WERE A REFERENDUM, THEY WOULD VOTE TO HAVE CHAVEZ REMAIN IN OFFICE. 52 PERCENT WOULD VOTE TO REMOVE HIM. CHAVEZ SHOWED A 42 PERCENT APPROVAL RATING, WHILE MIRANDA

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GOVERNOR ENRIQUE MENDOZA TOPPED THE LIST AT 62 PERCENT.

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(THE COMPLETE SURVEY HAS BEEN E-MAILED TO WHA/AND).

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